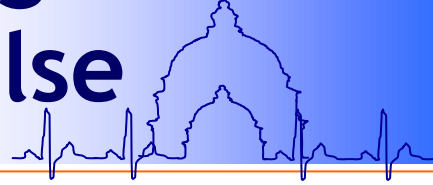




8-3-2009

Legislative Pulse



Health Policy News and Events

CDC Recognizes Innovative Obesity Prevention and Control Initiatives

Eight organizations were recognized for their work in advancing policies and strategies to prevent and control obesity. [More...](#)

Recovery Act to Fund 12 State Efforts to Improve Care in Ambulatory Surgical Centers

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released funds to help states reduce infection rates in stand-alone or same-day surgical centers. [More...](#)

HHS Secretary Sebelius Signs United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The signing of the UN Convention sends a message that the United States is committed to equal rights for people with disabilities. [More...](#)

Input Sought for 2010 Policy Recommendations *Focus on Improving Health, Lowering Costs*

The Kansas Health Policy Authority will be soliciting public input for a package of health policy recommendations that will be presented to the 2010 legislature. But this year's package is expected to look much different than previous initiatives the agency has pursued.

KHPA Executive Director-designate Dr. Andrew Allison says a number of factors are causing the agency to shift its focus away from expanding health care coverage for more Kansans, and instead to emphasize policies that can improve the health of all Kansans and lower the cost of health care.

"The debate over how to expand coverage has clearly shifted to Washington," Allison said. "It's possible that Congress will vote on a national health reform bill before the Kansas legislature convenes in January. Meanwhile, the tight budget situation in Kansas and the continuing economic slowdown make it unrealistic to propose new programs that would require large new investments."

At its annual strategic planning meeting in June, the KHPA Board directed agency staff to work closely with other state agencies, as well as the governor's office, to develop recommendations that promote public health and healthy lifestyles, as well as policies that lead to more efficiency and lower health care costs.

Allison said budget constraints are also prompting the agency to look for new, less expensive ways of soliciting public input.

"We still plan to make extensive use of KHPA advisory councils," Allison said. "But instead of going on a statewide community dialogue tour like we have in years past, this year we'll be making greater use of video conferencing, web-based tools, and even social networking tools like Twitter." (See related story, Page 2.)

The KHPA Board will discuss health policy initiatives through the remainder of 2009 and expects to approve a final package for presentation to the legislature before the end of the year.

Save the Date

Wednesday, Aug. 5
3-5 p.m.
KHPA Board Executive Committee:
Landon State Office Bldg., 900 SW Jackson, Conf. Room 9-E

Monday, Aug. 10
3-5 p.m.
KHPA Board Audit-Finance Committee
Landon State Office Bldg., 900 SW Jackson, Topeka. Conf. Room 9-E

Tuesday, Aug. 18
8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.
KHPA Board
EDS Office, Forbes Field Industrial Park
6700 S. Topeka Blvd., Bldg. 283, “J” Street, Topeka.

Wednesday, Sept. 2
2-4 p.m.
KHPA Nursing Home Advisory Committee
Landon State Office Bldg., 900 SW Jackson, Topeka. Conf. Room 9-E.

Advisory Councils to Resume Work in September

After a brief respite this summer, the Kansas Health Policy Authority’s four advisory councils will resume work in September to provide input for the next package of health policy recommendations and to help prepare for the 2010 legislative session.

The meetings will originate from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Room 530, Curtis State Office Building, 10th and Jackson, in Topeka with video conferencing feeds available in various KDHE district offices throughout the state.

The **Provider Council** will meet from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, with video conferencing available in Chanute, Hays, Lawrence, Salina and Wichita.

The **Purchaser Council** will meet from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, with video conferencing available in Dodge City, Hays, Lawrence, Salina and Wichita.

The **Consumer Council** will meet from 1-3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, with video conferencing available in Chanute, Dodge City, Hays, Lawrence, Salina and Wichita.

The **At-Large Council** will meet from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, with video conferencing available in Dodge City, Hays, Lawrence, Salina and Wichita.

At each of the meetings, KHPA Executive Director Dr. Andrew Allison will provide an overview of the agency’s budget, mission and organization. That will be followed by discussion and input from committee members.

Agendas will be mailed to council members and posted on the KHPA website as soon as they are available.

New Web Tools Enhance KHPA Outreach Efforts

The Kansas Health Policy Authority has launched two new web-based tools aimed at making it easier to follow news and events about health policy and to take part in discussions about future health initiatives.

KHPA news is now available on [Twitter](#), the social-networking site that allows users to post and exchange information in short, 120-character messages. KHPA is using the site to post links to news and reports about health policy issues and to provide timely updates about legislative activity affecting KHPA.

Meanwhile, [KHPA website](#) users can now get automatic updates through RSS news feeds. The site now has four distinct RSS “channels,” accessible from the top menu bar, that provide targeted news for beneficiaries, providers, news media and the public, and researchers.

The news feeds can be viewed by clicking on the orange RSS logo. Consult the help menu on your web browser or email client for instructions on how to subscribe to news feeds.

KHPA Pulse is a publication by the KHPA Communications Team distributed weekly during the legislative session. If you have questions or comments, contact the Public Information Officer Peter Hancock at 785/296.5603 or peter.hancock@khpas.gov

